

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
    INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
    USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /078 W  
    -----271818Z 002213 /43

P R 271530Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5353  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1480

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH  
SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE PRESS OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

REF: (A) MAPUTO 1468 (B) MAPUTO A-87

1. SUMMARY: THE ARREST OF A NUMBER OF DOCKWORKERS AND THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD FRELIMO PARTY CONGRESS DOMINATED PRESS COVERAGE DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE REPORTING ON RHODESIA. CHRISTMAS WAS NO DECLARED A NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND CELEBRATIONS IN MAPUTO WERE SUBDUED. END SUMMARY.

2. TROUBLE ON THE DOCKS: FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS OF REPORTS OF UNREST AMONG LOCAL DOCKWORKERS (REF A AND B), NOTICIAS DECEMBER 26 ANNOUNCED THAT FOUR STEVEDORES HAD BEEN ARRESTED. ALL WERE ALLEGED TO BE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE NOW DEFUNCT PORTUGUESE PIDE/DGS. THE FOUR WERE ACCUSED OF ENGAGING IN "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" ACTIVITIES (ECONOMIC SABOTAGE AND DESTABLIZATION OF THE LABOR FORCE) WITH THE INTENT OF PARALYZING THE WORK OF THE PORT THROUGH AN ATTEMPTED STRIKE. NOTICIAS REPORTED THAT  
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22 OTHER STEVEDORES WERE ALSO BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE THE GOVERNMENT DECEMBER 26 ANNOUNCED THAT A MEETING OF ALL THE STEVEDORES IN MAPUTO WOULD BE HELD DECEMBER 27 "TO ANALYZE THE PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT" THE PORT. (COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT POLICE HAVE ARRESTED AT LEAST 450 DOCKWORKERS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING THE STEVEDORES MORE

TIGHTLY UNDER FRELIMO CONTROL.)

3. THIRD FRELIMO PARTY CONGRESS: LOCAL PRESS DECEMBER 23-26 CARRIED FULL PAGE SPREADS ON THE "THESES" WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT FRELIMO'S THIRD PARTY CONGRESS TO BE HELD FROM FEBRUARY 3-8. ONE OF THE POINTS GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE WAS A STATEMENT ON "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM". ACCORDING TO ORGANIZERS OF CONFERENCE, "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM" THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE ONE OF THE PRINCIPLES ADOPTED AT THE FRELIMO CONGRESS. DOCUMENT DESCRIBED SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM AS MARXIST-LENINISM AND UNABASHEDLY PROCLAIMED BOTH MARX AND LENIN AS "GREAT REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS OF THE WORKING CLASSES." THE DOCUMENT FURTHER STATED THAT SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM WAS THE ONLY CORRECT WAY TO BUILD AN IDEOLOGICAL BASE THAT WILL PERMIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOCIETY IN MOZAMBIQUE WHICH IS FREE OF EXPLOITATION. NOTICIAS ALSO REPORTED ON SEVERAL MEETINGS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE PREPARATIONS AND GOALS OF THE THIRD PARTY CONGRESS WERE DISCUSSED. MEETINGS WERE LED BY GOVERNORS, GROUPS OF MINIMIZING LEADERS, MEMBERS OF THE FRELIMO MILITARY-POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND VARIOUS PROVINCIAL POLITICAL COMMISSARS. (FULL TEXT OF FRELIMO DOCUMENT BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM).

4. RHODESIA: PRESS COVERAGE ON RHODESIA WAS EXTREMELY THIN. DECEMBER 23 NOTICIAS DA BEIRA, IN REHASH OF ROBIN WRIGHT ARTICLE, REPORTED THAT THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY FOUR HUNDRED AMERICAN MERCENARIES IN THE RHODESIAN ARMY. NOTICIAS DECEMBER 24 REPORTED ROBERT MUGABE'S VISIT TO ROMANIA AND THE NOTICIAS DECEMBER 25 CARRIED CONFIDENTIAL

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EXCERPTS OF THE ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAR. MUGABE ACCUSED THE BRITISH OF NOT NEGOTIATING SERIOUSLY AND HONESTLY IN GENEVA. MUGABE TOLD REPORTERS THAT "THE (RHODESIAN) PROBLEM IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF GREAT BRITAIN. WE HAVE PRESENTED OUR PROPOSALS AND THEY KNOW WHAT WE WANT. WE DO NOT WANT ANY COMPROMISES...WE WANT A CORRECT SOLUTION."

5. CHRISTMAS ATMOSPHERE IN MAPUTO. CHRISTMAS WAS CELEBRATED IN A DECIDELY SOMBER AND SUBDUED MOOD. THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT DECLARE CHRISTMAS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY AND MOST GOVERNMENT OFFICES WERE OPEN ALTHOUGH MOST STORES AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES WERE CLOSED. LINES WERE LONG AT MOST STORES AND MARKETS ON DECEMBER 23 AND 24, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS VERY LITTLE FOOD OR GIFT ITEMS TO PURCHASE. AS IF THEY WERE EXPECTING TROUBLE, THE GOVERNMENT PLACED MILITARY UNITS IN MAPUTO AREA ON ALERT AND ON SEVERAL NIGHTS SOLDIERS WERE OUT IN LARGER THAN

USUAL NUMBERS. PRESIDENT MACHEL REPORTEDLY SPENT CHRISTMAS DAY IN BILENE, APPROXIMATELY 150 KILOMETERS NORTH OF MAPUTO, WHERE HE HAS BEEN FOR THE PAST WEEK. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER HIS STAY IN BELENE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE MILITARY ALERT OR WHETHER HE IS IN SECLUSION PREPARING FOR THE FORTHCOMING FRELIMO PARTY CONGRESS.  
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